

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03003 221351Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00  
( ISO ) W

-----034063 231734Z /53

R 221055Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1792

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USLO RIYADH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SA, IR

SUBJECT: A SAUDI VIEW ON IRAN

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON APRIL 18, MFA DIRECTOR  
FOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS AHMAD SIRAJ TOLD POL COUN  
THAT RECENT EVENTS IN IRAN WERE DISTURBING. HE THOUGHT  
THAT THINGS COULD NOT GO ON THE WAY THEY WERE GOING AND  
THAT SHAH WAS GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE  
SITUATION. SAG SEES IRAN AS RATHER UNSTABLE AND IS WORRIED  
ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN SHAH PASSES FROM SCENE.  
TROUBLES IN IRAN SEEM TO COME FROM BOTH RADICALS AND CON-  
SERVATIVES. SAG FEARS THAT COUNTRY WILL BE TORN APART BY  
CIVIL WAR AFTER SHAH DIES AND WILL DISINTEGRATE INTO  
CONGERIES OF SMALL STATES EASILY DOMINATED BY USSR.  
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD INTRODUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE INTO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03003 221351Z

GULF AND CREATE THREAT TO SAUDI OIL FIELDS. ALTERNATIVE  
TO FRAGMENTATION OF IRAN WOULD BE HIGHLY UNIFIED RADICAL  
STATE. EVEN THOUGH THIS WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY  
DURING FIRST FEW YEARS UNTIL NEW REGIME MATURED, SAG WOULD  
PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE, SINCE THERE WOULD BE STRONG GOV-  
VERNMENT WHICH COULD MAKE DECISIONS AND WITH WHICH SAG  
COULD DEAL. ALSO, AS NATIONALISM REASSERTED ITSELF, EVEN

UNIFIED RADICAL STATE WOULD EVENTUALLY PART WAYS WITH USSR.  
IN EITHER EVENTUALITY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SAUDI ARABIA  
HAVE STRONG MILITARY FORCE TO DEFEND OIL FIELDS.

2. ASKED WHAT SHAH MIGHT DO TO OBVIATE SUCH DIRE EVENTS,  
SIRAJ SAID THAT HE DID NOT PROPOSE TO BE CONSULTANT TO  
SHAH BUT THAT HE THOUGHT SHAH SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CONCIL-  
IATE ALL ELEMENTS IN COUNTRY AND THEN BALANCE THEM AGAINST  
ONE ANOTHER. HE SHOULD ALLOW SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES  
AND HE SHOULD FIND WAY TO BRING DISSIDENT STUDENTS HOME  
AND REINTEGRATE THEM INTO POLITICAL LIFE. IN THIS WAY,  
HE WOULD AT LEAST REMOVE CONSTANT THREAT TO HIS LIFE WHEN HE  
TRAVELS ABROAD. IF HE COULD INCREASE STABILITY IN COUNTRY,  
THEN TRANSITION TO HIS SON MIGHT BE SMOOTH AND REGIME  
MIGHT LAST FEW YEARS AFTER HIS PASSING. LONGEVITY OF  
RULE OF HIS SON AFTER FIRST FEW YEARS WOULD OF COURSE  
DEPEND ON THE SON, BUT SHAH IS GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME-  
THING NOW TO SET THE STAGE FOR HIM.  
WEST

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978JIDDA03003  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780173-0765  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** JIDDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780428/aaaaaxnw.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** af1954a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2882116  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** A SAUDI VIEW ON IRAN  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PINT, SA, IR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/af1954a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014